

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (New): A flat panel obtained by the Hatschek process from a sheet material obtained by filtration of an aqueous suspension comprising:

a cement in an amount of from 20 to 50% by weight of dry matter,
calcium carbonate in an amount of from 35 to 65% by weight of dry matter, and
at least synthetic fibres,
said flat panel being obtained without autoclaving.

Claim 10 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein said suspension additionally includes at least one pozzolan or material capable of undergoing a pozzolanic reaction.

Claim 11 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 10, wherein said pozzolan or material is at least one selected from the group consisting of aluminosilicates, calcium aluminosilicates and amorphous silica.

Claim 12 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein said suspension further includes plant fibres.

Claim 13 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 10, wherein said suspension further includes plant fibres.

Claim 14 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein said suspension comprises, by weight of dry matter:

from 2 to 10% by weight of fibres, at least some of which are said synthetic fibres;

from 0 to 30% by weight of pozzolan; and

from 0 to 10% by weight of at least one additive selected from the group consisting of kaolin, flocculants, and other adjuvants of said aqueous suspension.

Claim 15 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein said suspension comprises 40% of calcium carbonate and 15% of fly ashes.

Claim 16 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 10, wherein said suspension comprises 40% of calcium carbonate and 15% of fly ashes.

Claim 17 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 14, wherein said suspension comprises 40% of calcium carbonate and 15% of fly ashes.

Claim 18 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein said suspension comprises about 60% of calcium carbonate.

Claim 19 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 10, wherein said suspension comprises about 60% of calcium carbonate.

Claim 20 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 14, wherein said suspension comprises about 60% of calcium carbonate.

Claim 21 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein the content of synthetic fibres is at least 1% by weight relative to the total weight of dry matter or at least 25% by weight relative to the total weight of fibres.

Claim 22 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 10, wherein the content of synthetic fibres is at least 1% by weight relative to the total weight of dry matter or at least 25% by weight relative to the total weight of fibres.

Claim 23 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 14, wherein the content of synthetic fibres is at least 1% by weight relative to the total weight of dry matter or at least 25% by weight relative to the total weight of fibres.

Claim 24 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 9, wherein the synthetic fibres comprise at least one of polyvinyl alcohol fibres, polypropylene fibres and polyethylene fibres.

Claim 25 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 10, wherein the synthetic fibres comprise at least one of polyvinyl alcohol fibres, polypropylene fibres and polyethylene fibres.

Claim 26 (New): Flat panel according to Claim 9, in the form of a siding, a cladding element, or a partition element.

Claim 27 (New): Process for manufacturing the flat panel according to Claim 9, comprising filtration of said aqueous suspension and superposition of the thicknesses of the

sheet material thus formed until the final desired thickness is obtained, thereby forming said flat panel.

Claim 28 (New): Process according to Claim 9, wherein the flat panel is drained and/or pressed and/or subjected to a curing step.

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

The Abstract has been amended to be one paragraph.

All of the claims have been canceled and replaced with new Claims 9-28. Claims 9-26 are all drawn to a flat panel, the term --flat-- being supported in the specification at page 11, lines 24-26. Claims 27 and 28 are drawn to a process for manufacturing the flat panel. The claims are otherwise supported as follows.

Claim 9 is supported by Claim 1 combined with part of Claim 4. Claims 10 and 11 are supported by Claim 2. Claims 12 and 13 are supported by Claim 3. Claim 14 is supported by Claim 4, and the specification at page 7, lines 9-11. Claims 15-17 are supported by Example 2. Claims 18-20 are supported by Example 1. Claims 21-23 are supported by Claim 5. Claims 24-25 are supported in the specification at page 3, lines 21-23. Claim 26 is supported by Claim 1. Finally, Claims 27 and 28 are supported by Claims 7 and 8, respectively.

No new matter is believed to have been added by the above amendment. Claims 9-28 are now pending in the application.